

CHARLESTON

FIRE DEPARTMENT



Fire Prevention Week 2013: 'Prevent Kitchen Fires'

Contact: Community Educator Ryan Kunitzer

Phone: 843-958-6401

E-mail: kunitzerr@charleston-sc.gov

Charleston, SC (October 3rd, 2013): National Fire Prevention Week, commemorating the great Chicago fire of 1871, will be recognized this year between October 6th- 12th and will focus on the theme of "Prevent Kitchen Fires". During this year's fire safety campaign fire departments will be spreading the word about the dangers of kitchen fires - most of which result from unattended cooking - and teaching local residents how to prevent kitchen fires from occurring.

According to the latest NFPA research, cooking is the leading cause of home fires. Two of every five home fires begin in the kitchen—more than any other place in the home. Cooking fires are also the leading cause of home fire-related injuries.

"We continue to respond to kitchen fires throughout the community and the residents often tell us they only left the kitchen for a few minutes," said City of Charleston Fire Marshal Mike Julazadeh. "Unfortunately, unattended cooking fires quickly grow out of control and can have a devastating effect on a home while endangering the lives of the occupants and first responders. We hope that everyone will take a few moments during Fire Prevention Week to understand the dangers associated with cooking before they suffer a fire loss."

Residents are encouraged to visit the NFPA website at www.FPW.org to learn more about cooking fire safety and the 2013 theme. Below are a few safety tips that firefighters and safety advocates will be emphasizing:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, broiling, or boiling food.
- If you must leave the room, even for a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- When you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, stay in the home, and use a timer as a reminder.
- If you have young children, use the stove's back burners whenever possible. Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the stove.
- When you cook, wear clothing with tight-fitting sleeves or roll the sleeves up to prevent contact with the cooking surface.
- Keep potholders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper and plastic bags, towels, and anything else that can burn, away from your stovetop.
- Clean up food and grease from burners and stovetops.

Charleston Fire Department will be spreading the message of fire safety with several events throughout the entire month of October and we encourage the community to join us by learning more about kitchen fire safety.

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